

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION, IMPLICATIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A correlational-descriptive study was conducted to describe the level of self-perception of school-age children with epilepsy and to explore the relationship between self-perception of school-age children with epilepsy and personal factors including age, gender, education level, frequency of seizures and duration of illness. This chapter includes:

1. Conclusion of the findings
2. Implications for findings including nursing practice and nursing education
3. Limitations of the study
4. Recommendations for further research

Conclusion of findings

The conclusions are showed as follows:

1. School-age children with epilepsy had positive self-perception ($\bar{X}=93.09$, $SD=12.21$).

2. Regarding each component, school-age children had: significant positive self-perception of scholastic competence ($\bar{X}=15.52$, $SD=3.52$), athletic competence ($\bar{X}=15.20$, $SD=4.47$), physical appearance ($\bar{X}=16.72$, $SD=4.06$), behavior conduct ($\bar{X}=15.27$, $SD=3.06$), and self-worth ($\bar{X}=16.21$,

SD=3.03); significant negative self-perception on social acceptance (\bar{X} =13.94, SD=2.92).

3. There were significant negative relationships between frequency of seizures and overall self-perception and 4 components, including scholastic competence, social acceptance, athletic competence, and self-worth.

4. There were significant negative relationships between duration of illness and overall self-perception and two components including scholastic competence and athletic competence.

5. There were significant positive relationships between gender and two components including scholastic competence and behavior conduct, but there was significant negative relationship between gender and physical appearance.

Implications of findings

Findings of this study provided important implications for nursing practice and nursing education

Implications for nursing practice

Findings of this study provide important implications for nursing practice. These findings support the need for clinical nurses to be knowledgeable about self-perception of epileptic school-age children, and to be aware of personal factors influencing their self-perception development. Also, nurses can use the findings to encourage

positive self-perception development of these children according to their gender, duration of illness and frequency of seizures. These findings suggest that attention should be paid to those subjects who had relatively negative self-perception.

These findings highlight the importance of clinical nurses providing epileptic children with psychological and support for improving their self-perception, social acceptance and athletic competence, especially for those with longer duration of illness and disease with physical feature changes and physical disabilities. These findings also emphasize the appropriate clinical care for epileptic school-age children with relatively more frequency of seizures to improve their self-perception. At the same time these findings provide support for nurses to consider the gender difference while caring for the school-age children with epilepsy. Girls seemed to be more sensitive about their social behavior and scholastic competence. Thus the psychological and emotional support, patient explanation and comfort seem to be more necessary for these children, especially for girls.

Implications for nursing education

Findings of this study provide implications for nursing educators to emphasize roles of nurses in improving positive self-perception and preventing negative self-perception of epileptic school-age children, and can also help nurse educators to consider personal factors of the

children while developing curriculum content of pediatric nursing.

Limitations of the study

Eighty subjects of this study were drawn from outpatients pediatric departments of the Children' Hospital of Xi'an and the Second Teaching Hospital of Xi'an Medical University, Xi'an, Shaan Xi province, China. Therefore the sample size of this study was small and these subjects could not be considered as representative of epileptic school-age children of the whole country.

Recommendations for further research:

1. Other possible influencing factors, such as onset of illness, social support network, finances, and children' temperaments may need to be explored further.
2. A study of self-perception of children with other types of epilepsy is also recommended to be done to provide more information regarding epileptic children.
3. Study of self-perception using other methods of data collection, for example, in depth interviewing and participant observation.